

## **SITE INSPECTION REPORT**

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### **Proposal for Diversion of 0.024 ha of forest land for construction of approach road for opening retail outlet of HPCL on Chater Chowk-Santosh Bridge Road in Khagaria district Bihar.**

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The present proposal (FP/BR/Others/117859/2020) solicits approach access to a new HPCL Retails Outlet established on road side of Chater Chowk-Santosh Bridge Road, whose road sides are notified as Protected Forest vide Bihar Government's notification No. 921E dated 28.8.1997. User agency established the retail outlet using the road access without obtaining the mandatory approval from forest department. When the unauthorized use of access road was brought into the knowledge of forest department (on 21/01/2022), it took cognizance of the violation of forest regulations involved as per the relevant acts and directed the user agency to seek the forest diversion through established procedure. Accordingly, the user agency applied for forest land diversion through PARIVESH 2.0 (application submitted to state government on 10/1/2025). The proposal was processed and forwarded by state government to Head Office of MoEFCC on 2/9/2025 and subsequent site inspection was conducted by Regional office, Ranchi to prepare present Site Inspection Report (SIR).

***Name of the Inspecting Officer:*** P. Sanjeeva Reddy, AIGF

***Date of Inspection:*** 04.12.2025

***Officials present from the state Forest Department:***

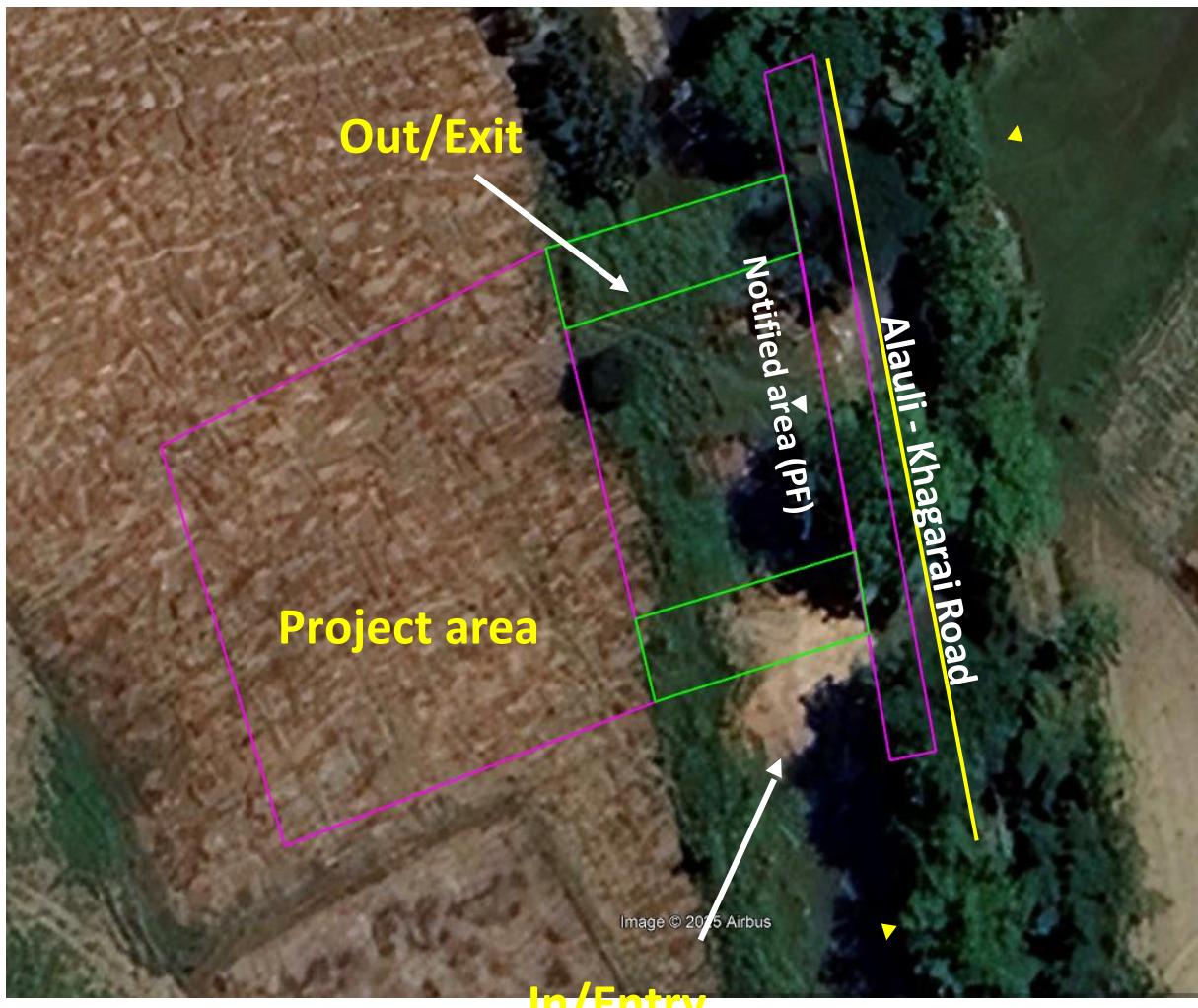
- Shri Abhishek Kumar Singh, DFO Begusarai
- and other forest staff.

***Official present from the User Agency:***

- Shri Rajesh Kumar, User Agency.

#### **1. Legal status of the land proposed for diversion:**

The proposed forest area of 0.024 ha for approach access to HPCL retail outlet is situated on the Chater Chowk-Santosh Bridge Road in Khagaria district of Bihar. According to Department of Environment, Forest and climate change, Bihar notification No. 97/91/189E/190E dtd 16.02.1994, the Khagaria-Alauliya tract is notified as Protected Forest (PF).



**2. Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:**

<b>Breakup details</b>	<b>Width and length</b>	<b>Area in sq.m</b>	<b>Area in Ha.</b>
<b>Entrance path/road</b>	7.5 m x 1.6 m	12.00	0.012
<b>Exit path/road</b>	7.5 m x 1.6 m	12.00	0.012
Total area		24.00	0.024

**No non-forest area is involved in the approach access path.**

**3. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If, yes details thereof: No.**

No. The proposal is for approach access path and does not involve construction of any building.

**4. Total cost of the project at present rate:**

₹ 40 lacs (as per online application). The amount is inclusive of HPCL Pump establishment too.

**5. Wildlife:**

The forest land involved in the proposal is road side notified PF within ROW and therefore does not constitute any significant wildlife habitat except for local avian fauna. Only local jackal, owl and other common species of avian fauna have been reported in this area.

**6. Vegetation:**

**a) Total number of trees to be felled:**

There are no standing trees at the proposed location. Therefore, no trees are likely to be affected/felled due to approach path construction.

**b) Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:**

No tree removal is involved in the proposal.

**7. Background Note on the proposal:**

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) Ltd has awarded and allotted retail outlet dealership to Mr. Rajesh Kumar S/O Ram Udgari Singh, Kara, Jamui, Bihar vide its letter dated 06/08/2021.

The application seeking the dealership by the awardees was also submitted on the same day i.e. 06/08/2021. On basis of the award, the user agency (Mr. Rajesh Kumar) started work at the retail outlet at the designated land which was separated from the road by a linear strip

of notified protected forest within the ROW of that road. User agency did not seek prior approval of the forest department for construction of approach path to access the outlet and part of forest land was subjected to approach road construction-a non-forestry work. The encroachment of forest land and possible violation of Van (Samvardhan Eevam Sanrakshan) Adhiniyam 1980 was brought to the knowledge of forest department on 21/10/2022 and it took cognizance of the offence, registered cases under relevant acts after preliminary investigation and directed user agency to apply for post-facto diversion of already used forest land. State forest department also ensured that no further work in violation to continue till forest diversion is allowed by competent authority.





## 8. Compensatory Afforestation (CA):

**(a) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:**

The proposal being less than 1ha, includes plantation of 100 trees as compensatory afforestation (CA).

**(b) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/ other encumbrances:**

Trees/saplings shall be planted at vacant spaces in the notified road side PF.

**(c) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/ Archaeological point of view:**

No. Not informed during inspection.

**(d) Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:**

Not Applicable, as no block plantation is involved.

**(e) Total financial outlay: ₹ 874538.00**

**9. Whether proposal involves violation of VAN (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials.**

The road side notified forest was used by user agency for accessing its retail outlet site. During site inspection it was seen that forest land involved in the proposal has been levelled and has been used for assisting the construction and operation of the outlet during 2022-23. The Regional Office, Ranchi vide letter No. FP/BR/Others/117859/2020/637 dated 21.10.2022 has written to APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer, Bihar that as per the DSS/technical analysis of the area, apparently work in violation of FC Act has been done within the proposed forest area for diversion. DSS analysis also revealed that the forest land proposed for diversion falls under an inland natural wetland. APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer, Bihar vide letter no. 1004-2021/631 has stated that soil filling work has been carried out along the approach road to access entry and exit path. APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer, Bihar also stated that nearby sites are not wetlands. The breaking up of forest land and its encroachment to utilize it for entry/exit purpose was considered violation of IFA by the forest staff and an offence case against PP (Mr.Rajesh Kumar) under Section 33 of Indian Forest Act, 1927 was registered in May 2023 after thorough investigation. The case is presently under consideration in Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Begusarai.

**10. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not:**

No. The proposal does not involve the rehabilitation of displaced persons/ families.

**11. Reclamation Plan**

Not Applicable.

**12. Details on catchment and command area under the project:**

Not Applicable

**13. Cost benefit ratio:**

Proposal involves diversion of 0.024ha forest area, therefore Cost- Benefit analysis is not mandatory and the same is not done.

**14. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest/ State Government.**

Available online at PARIVESH 1.0. As per the Parivesh 1.0 uploaded letter, the proposal is recommended by the State Government with Penal NPV. The recommended for diversion of 0.024 ha of forest land (Road side PF) with conditions as stated in the forwarding letter no. वन भूमि -48/2022/702, dated 15.09.2022.

**15. Dy. Director General of Forests (Central) shall give detailed comments on**

**whether there are any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non-forest land:**

Provided separately.

**16. Utility of the project.**

The proposal is for the approach road to new HPCL retail outlet at Khagaria – Alauli road, Khagaria. As next petrol pump situated is 03 Km North & 2.5 Km South, it is very much essential for establishment of petrol pump to meet the needs of people.

**(a) Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value:**

No, the proposed area for diversion does not hold any cultural, strategic importance, or religious significance etc. No archaeological site, defense establishment or other important monuments are present near the proposed outlet.

**(b) Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion:**

Not reported.

**(c) Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique eco-system:**

Not reported.

**17. Situation with respect to any Protected Area:**

There are no Protected Areas situated within 10km from the project site in any direction.

**18. Any other information relating to the project:**

Nothing else in particular.

**19. Recommendation of inspecting Officer:**

Since the project is for establishment of retail outlet which is less- polluting and the proposal does not involve any natural forest but only road side notified forest, it is not very detrimental to natural flora and fauna. The proposal may be considered for recommendation, if the user agency is appropriately penalized for violating forest related regulations and state authorities are reprimanded for being passive towards forest protection laws.

Specifically, the state shall ensure the following as precondition for approving the extant forest diversion proposal:

- The authorities of Road Construction Department (the owner department of this

Road Side Notified Forests) should be issued with notice under section 3A & 3B of VS&SA 1980 to explain the reason for issuance of NOC allowing the non-forest use of Road Side notified Protected Forest without prior approval of competent authority.

- All the conditions imposed by the state government while forwarding the proposal to central government vide their letter no./वन भूमि -48/2022/702 dated 15/09/2022 shall be strictly followed and complied with.

The Site Inspection Report is hereby being submitted for further action.

Digitally signed by  
Poreddy Sanjeeva Reddy  
Date: 04-01-2026  
12:20:20P. Sanjeeva Reddy  
AIGF, RO Ranchi

## Recommendations of DDGF (Central) on Project Proposal No.

**FP/BR/Others/117859/2020**

I concur with the observations recorded in the Site Inspection Report. Based on the recommendation of the State Government, the proposal is recommended, subject to the following condition:

1. The State Government shall initiate appropriate action against any violation of the Van (Sanrakshan E�am Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 3A and 3B of the Act and paragraph 1.16(ii)(a), (b), and (d) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the allied rules.

**SENTHIL  
KUMAR  
SAMPATH**

**(Dr. S. Senthil Kumar)**  
**Dy. Director General of Forests (C)**